

**NEW            Comment on the Future Direction of Aging  
Support Services**

**Older Americans Act Reauthorization 2011**

**Background**

The Older Americans Act establishes policy goals for improving the lives of individuals 60 years of age and above. Please share with the State Unit on Aging your thoughts regarding points of emphasis for refining this law.

**Impact within Nebraska**

Since 1965, the Older Americans Act has stimulated progress towards the development of a comprehensive and coordinated service system. Senior Centers, in-home services, rural public transportation systems, emergency response systems such as Lifelines, caregiver support services and personal advocacy services have all been supported with these funds in Nebraska.

**Potential Program Emphasis**

- Better access to community support systems.
- Focus assistance on at-risk populations (individuals who are frail or with incomes close to the poverty level).
- Emphasize services which serve people in their homes.
- Increase consumer-directed support services.
- Provide programs focusing upon the maintenance of health and well-being.
- A local point of assistance to explain available community supports.

**Recommendations Sought**

With the dramatic increase in older persons over the next 20 years, what changes should be emphasized?

Varied Possibilities:

- a. Stronger focus on health promotion programming;
- b. Increased emphasis on connecting at-risk populations with available support services (such as Medicaid, Food Stamps or Energy Assistance);
- c. Emphasize services which support people in their homes;
- d. Authorized funding levels for the Older Americans Act should be indexed to the population of older adults;
- e. Increase consumer directed support services; and
- f. Focusing Administration on Aging resources on at-risk populations such as frail, minority or low-income older persons.

**Submit Ideas by September 1, 2010 to:**

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